



# AMETHYST

PRINCESS  
OF GEMWORLD

75¢  
15  
JUNE 86  
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

INTRODUCING: **FLAW**  
AND **THE CHILD...**

## "APOCALYPSE!"





# APOCALYPSE!

IS THIS THE WAY A  
PRODIGAL SON IS WELCOMED HOME??  
WITH ONLY RUDE SILENCE??

IS THERE NOT TO BE  
HOT GROG AND FOOD TO WARM  
MY CHILLED BONES??

THAT VOICE-- OUT OF  
MY NIGHTMARES!

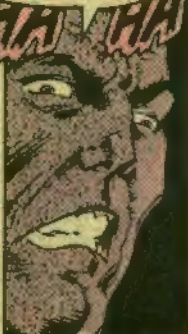
MURDERER OF  
YOUR OWN SON! GO  
BACK TO YOUR  
GRAVE, DARK OPAL--  
WE NO LONGER  
FEAR YOU.

AH, BUT MY GRAVE  
WAS A DARK AND LONELY  
PLACE, TOPAZ. I MISSED  
THE LIGHT OF MY GEMWORLD'S  
SUN. AND I MISSED ALL  
OF YOU, MY FELLOW  
LORDS AND LADIES.

CAN YOU NOT  
SAY YOU MISSED ME??

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

THIS IS  
BLASPHEMY!!











IN THE NAME OF THE  
TWELVE--DIAMOND!

TH--THE SHARDS--  
THE PAIN!

MY LADY AMETHYST, CAN  
YOU EXPLAIN ANY OF THIS?

WHO WAS CARL, AND WHAT  
WAS HE TO DARK OPAL?  
HE LOOKED SO MUCH  
LIKE CARNELIAN.

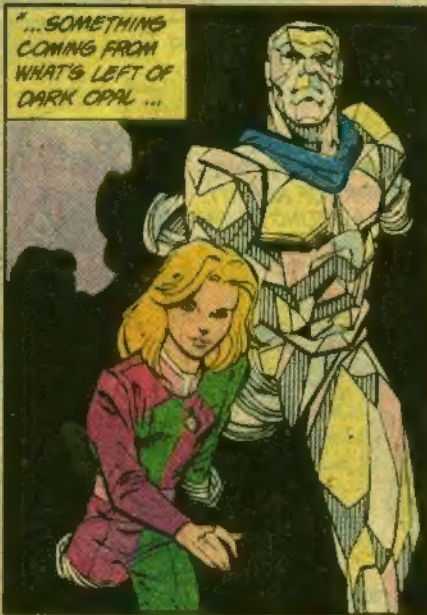
I--I DON'T KNOW,  
TURQUOISE I DON'T  
KNOW ANYTHING BUT  
DARKNESS...



"...AND PAIN..."

UHHH

"...AND  
SOMETHING  
ELSE, TOO.  
SOMETHING  
HORRIBLE...  
WICKED..."



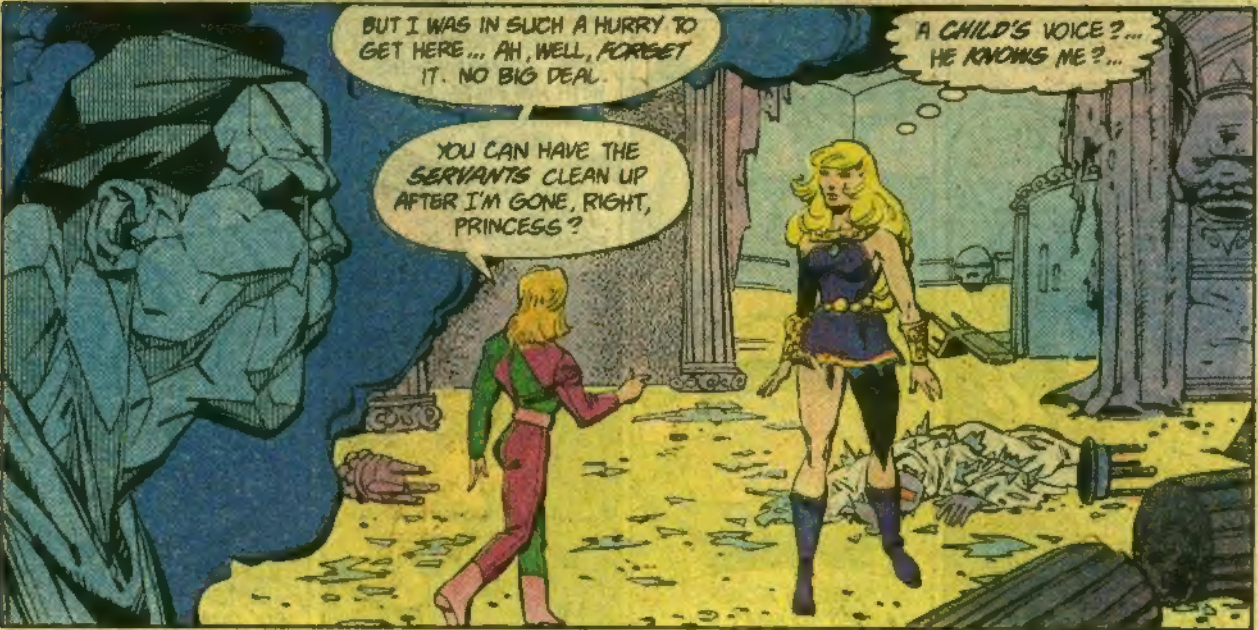
"...SOMETHING  
COMING FROM  
WHAT'S LEFT OF  
DARK OPAL..."



"...SOMETHING MONSTROUS!"

WELL, HI, FOLKS. SORRY  
ABOUT THE MESS.

COULDN'T  
BE HELPED.



BUT I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO  
GET HERE... AH, WELL, FORGET  
IT. NO BIG DEAL.

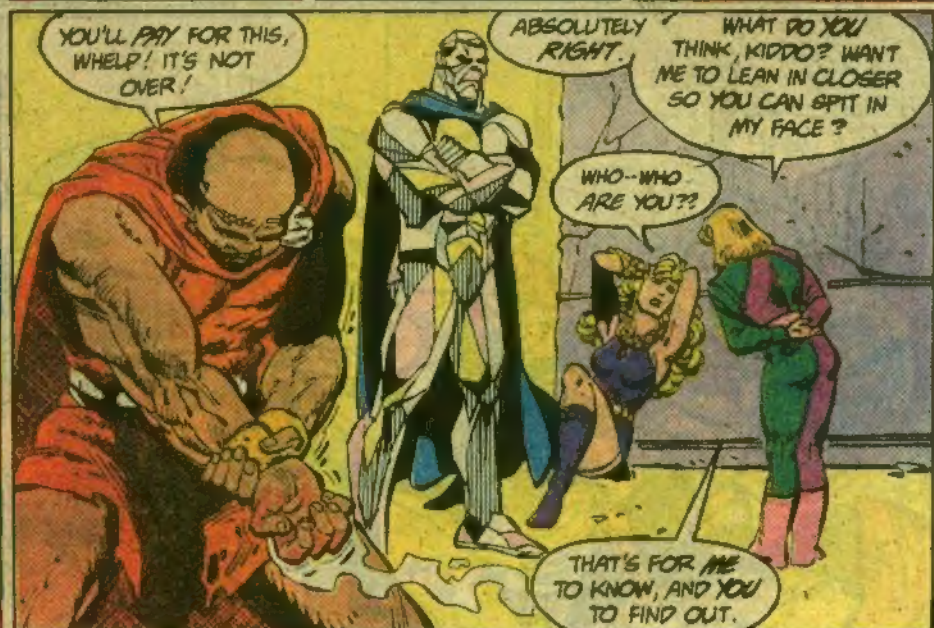
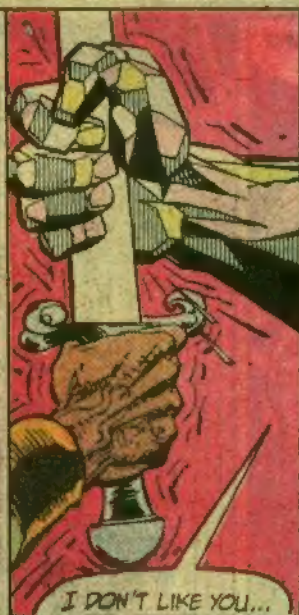
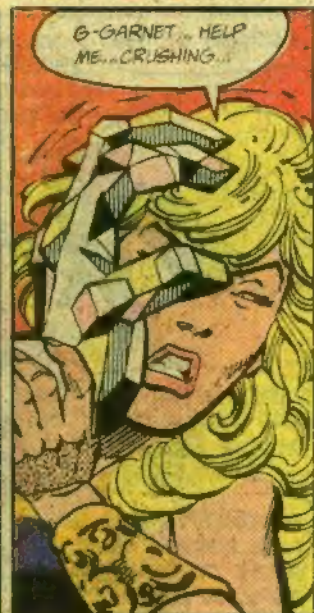
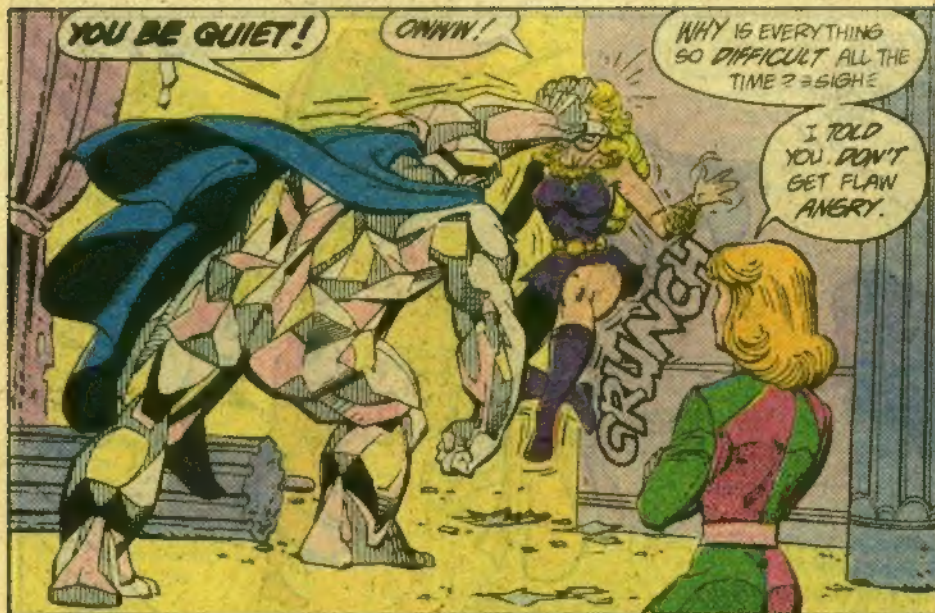
YOU CAN HAVE THE  
SERVANTS CLEAN UP  
AFTER I'M GONE, RIGHT,  
PRINCESS?

A CHILD'S VOICE?...  
HE KNOWS ME?...

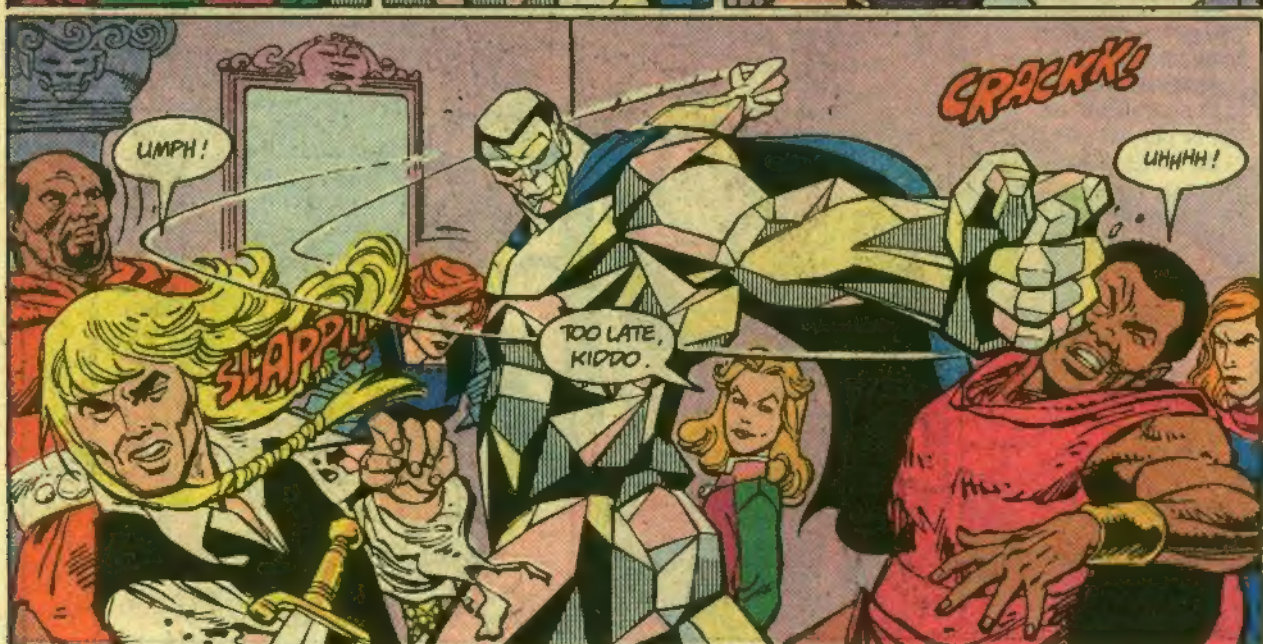




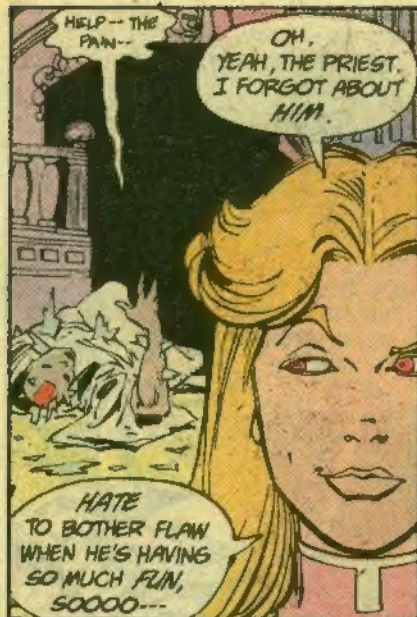




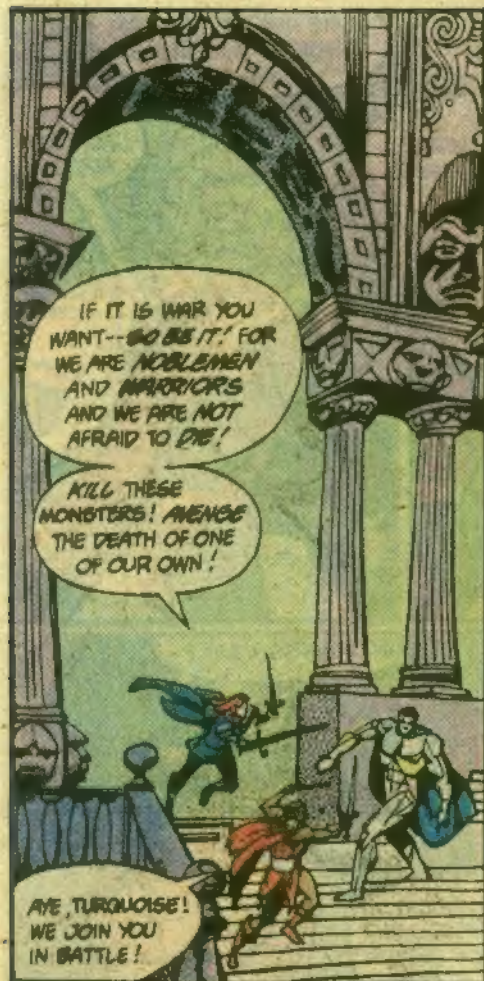












IF IT IS WAR YOU WANT--**DO BE IT!** FOR WE ARE NOBLEMEN AND WARRIORS AND WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO DIE!

KILL THESE MONSTERS! AVENGE THE DEATH OF ONE OF OUR OWN!

AYE, TURQUOISE! WE JOIN YOU IN BATTLE!



USELESS BLADES.

KRASH!

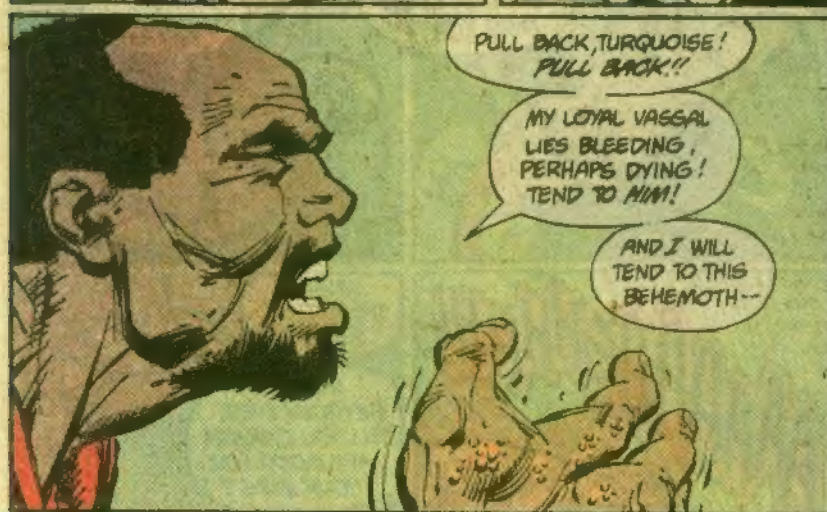
SNAP!



NO! THE SWORDS BREAK DESPITE THEIR MYSTIC STEEL?!?

USELESS HUMAN.

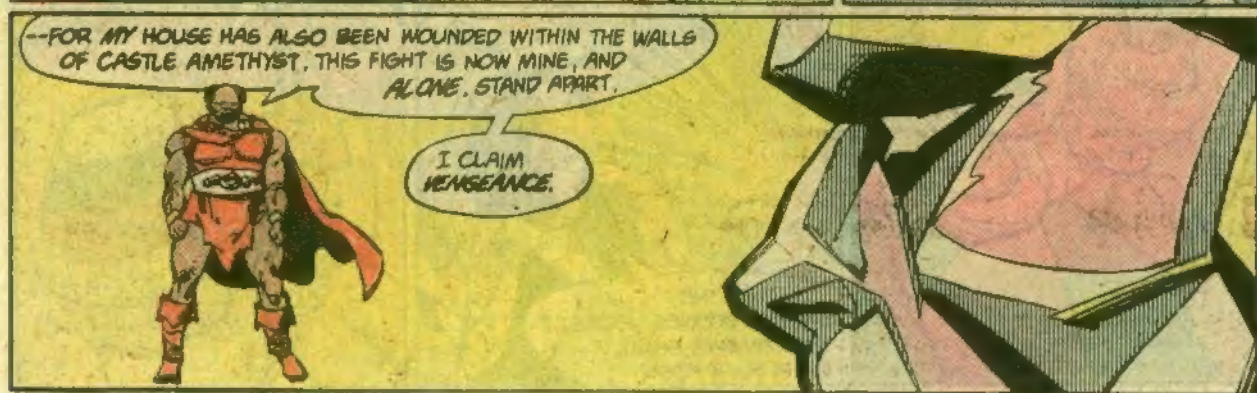
STILL, I WILL NOT REST 'TIL THIS CREATURE LIES AS BROKEN AS DARK OPAL!



PULL BACK, TURQUOISE! PULL BACK!!

MY LOYAL VASSAL LIES BLEEDING, PERHAPS DYING! TEND TO HIM!

AND I WILL TEND TO THIS BEHEMOTH--



--FOR MY HOUSE HAS ALSO BEEN WOUNDED WITHIN THE WALLS OF CASTLE AMETHYST, THIS FIGHT IS NOW MINE, AND ALONE. STAND APART.

I CLAIM VENGEANCE.



NOW, LET ME MAKE SURE I GOT  
ALL THIS, LADY. YOU WERE IN BED  
WHEN YOU SUDDENLY HEARD  
SCREAMING FROM ACROSS  
THE STREET AND THAT WAS  
AT APPROXIMATELY  
11:32 P.M.?

**SHEESH!**  
IF MY WIFE LOOKED  
LIKE THAT, I'D BUY  
UP EVERY TABLET OF  
ALKA-SELTZER IN TOWN.

SOMETHING HORRIBLE IS GOING ON  
AT CARL'S HOUSE, TAFFY, AND I KNOW  
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE  
GEMWORLD.' I KNOW IT!

RITA WENT IN, AND NEVER CAME OUT. BUT I COULD HEAR HER SCREAMS.

"I'M SCARED, TAFFY, SHE SOUNDED JUST LIKE MY MOTHER DID, BEFORE... BEFORE SHE DIED... AS IF HER WHOLE WORLD WAS ENDING.

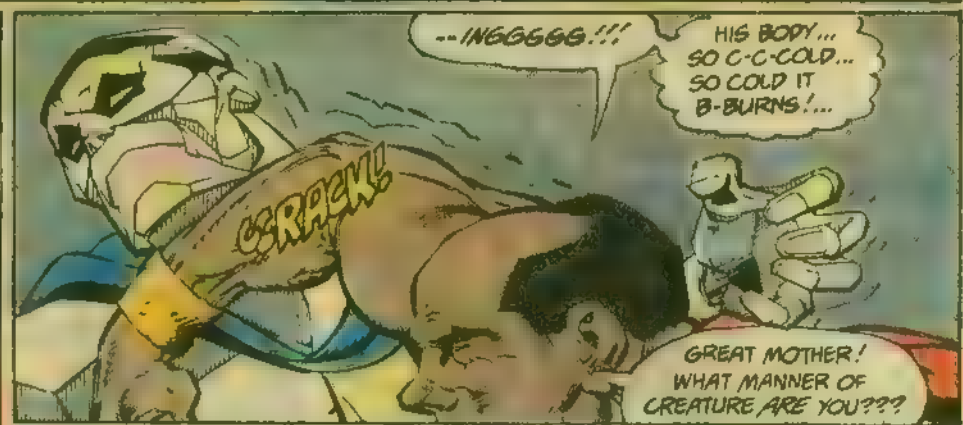
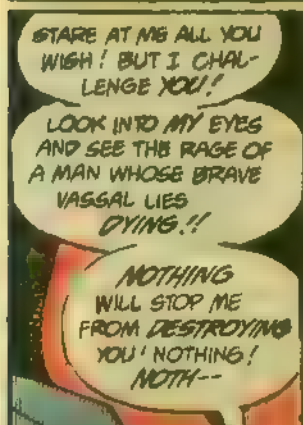
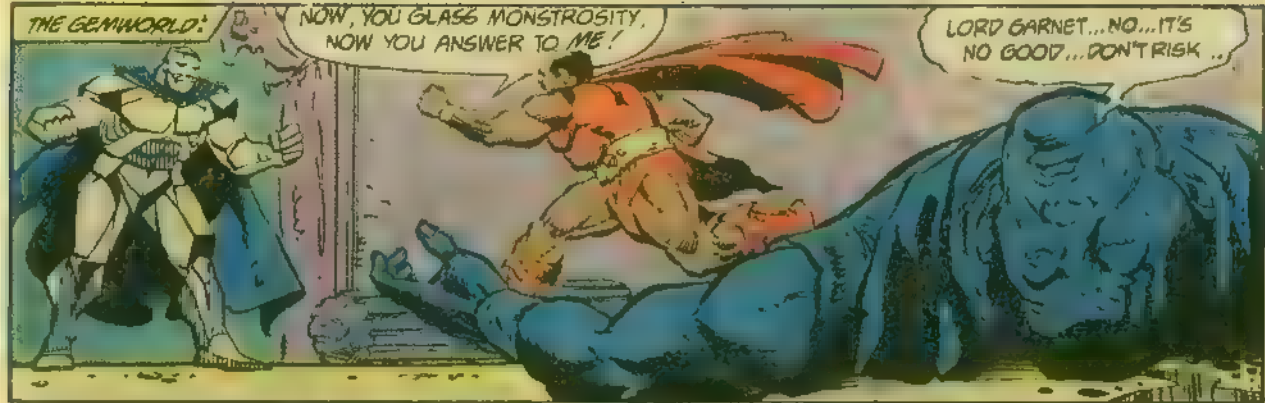
"THE GEMWORLD HEALERS  
COULD DO NOTHING FOR  
MOTHER. BUT MAYBE ...  
MAYBE HERE ON EARTH  
THEY HAVE SMARTER  
DOCTORS."

HOO, BOY, HAVE WE GOT A LIVE ONE HERE!  
THIS KID IS SO HIGH SHE CAN HEAR  
THE ANGELS SINGING!

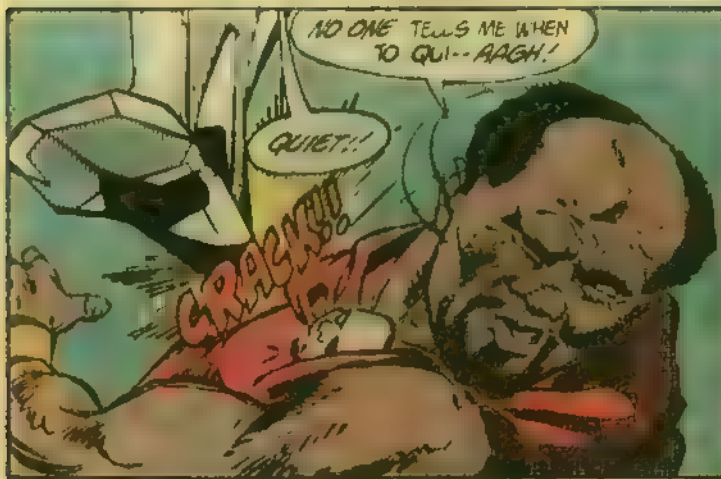
DRUGS? IN THIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD?

NONOYOU DONT  
UNDERSTANDNOT DRUGGITS  
CARL SOMETHINGS HAPPENING  
TO HIMHE'S CHANGING I HAVE TO  
TELL AMY TO GO TO THE GENM WORLD PLEASE  
LET ME TELL HER NO HOSPITAL PLEASE  
MONNY PLEASE MONNY MONNY MONNY!!!





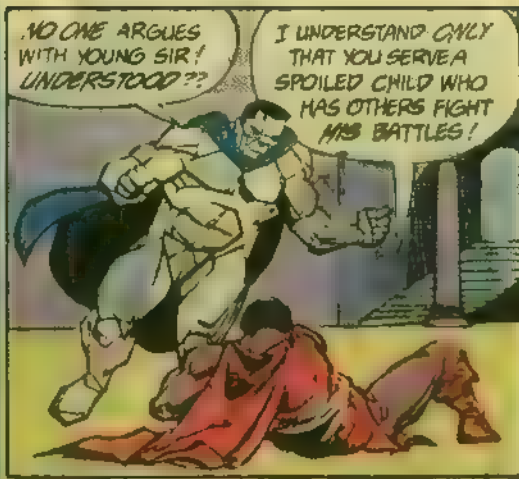




NO ONE TELLS ME WHEN TO QUI-- AAGH!

QUIET!!

CRACK!!



NO ONE ARGUES WITH YOUNG SIR! UNDERSTOOD??

I UNDERSTAND ONLY THAT YOU SERVE A SPOILED CHILD WHO HAS OTHERS FIGHT HIS BATTLES!

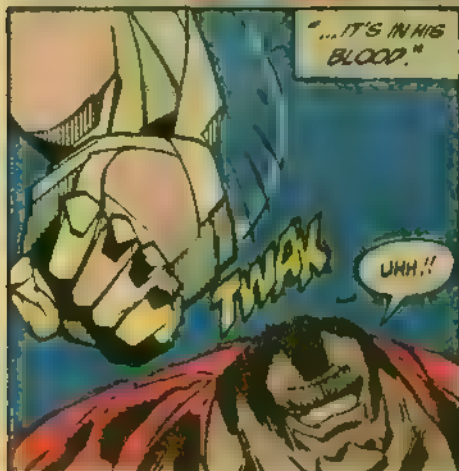


I SAID QUIET!!

GRUNN!!

TOPAZ, WE MUST DO SOMETHING!

NO, LADY LIKE YOU, GARNET IS A WARRIOR...



"...IT'S IN HIS BLOOD."

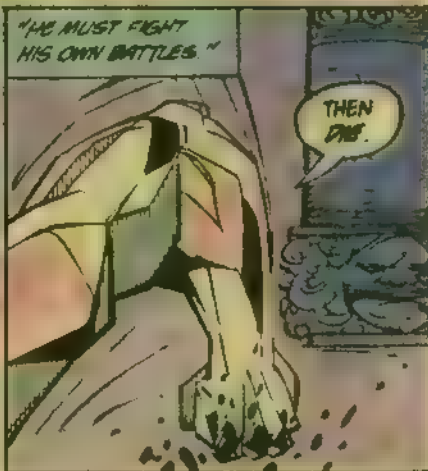
TWAX

UHH!!



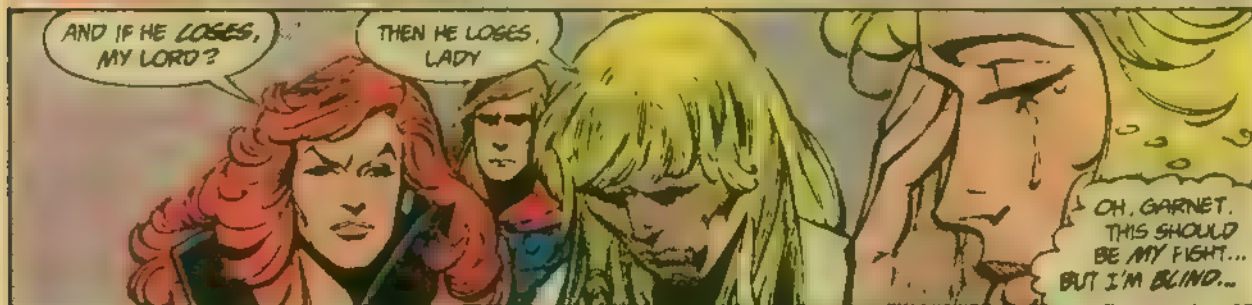
SURRENDER

NO!



"HE MUST FIGHT HIS OWN BATTLES."

THEN DIE.



AND IF HE LOSES, MY LORD?

THEN HE LOSES, LADY

OH, GARNET. THIS SHOULD BE MY FIGHT... BUT I'M BLIND...



YOU WORTHLESS PIECE OF ...





HE RISES STILL ?

YES, I RISE... AND I SHALL CONTINUE... TO RISE.

...BECAUSE YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND...

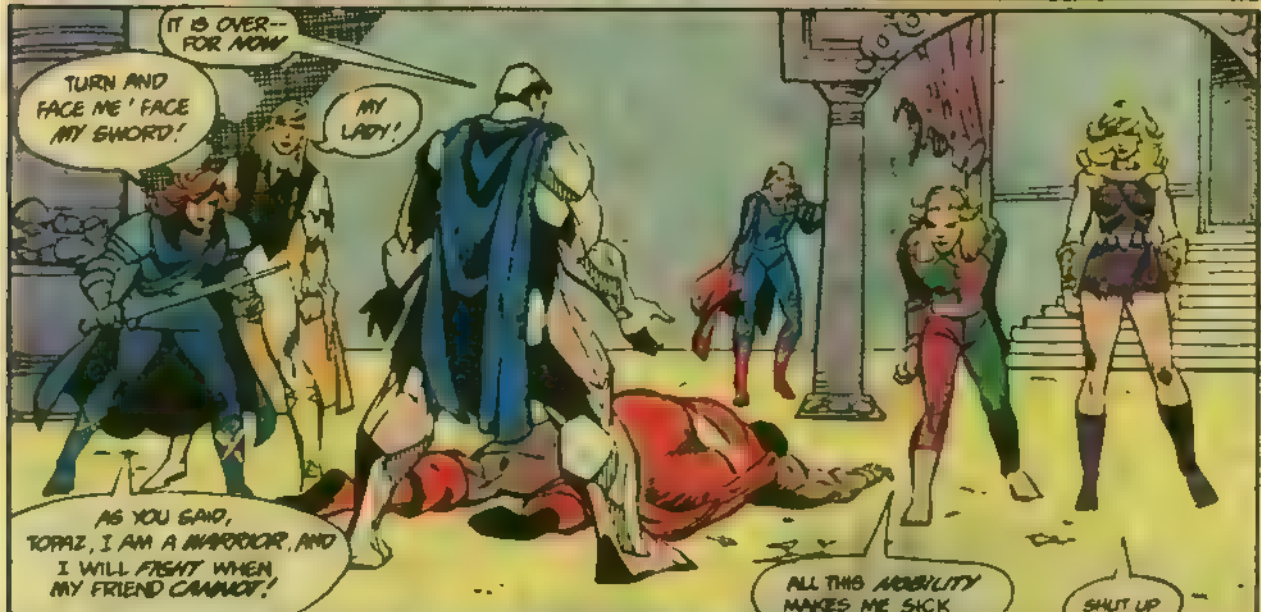


...WHAT IT MEANS... TO BE ALIVE... AND FREE AND FILLED...

...WITH LOVE OF LAND AND PEOPLE... AND HONOR AND



...AND LIFE...



IT IS OVER-- FOR NOW

TURN AND FACE ME 'FACE MY SWORD!

MY LADY!

AS YOU SAID, TOPAZ, I AM A WARRIOR, AND I WILL FIGHT WHEN MY FRIEND CANNOT!

ALL THIS ABILITY MAKES ME SICK.

SHUT UP



OH, C'MON, RELAX

LIFE'S A GAME THE OL' GEEZER WILL BE FINE, EVENTUALLY.

I SAID SHUT UP



NO! DON'T TOUCH--

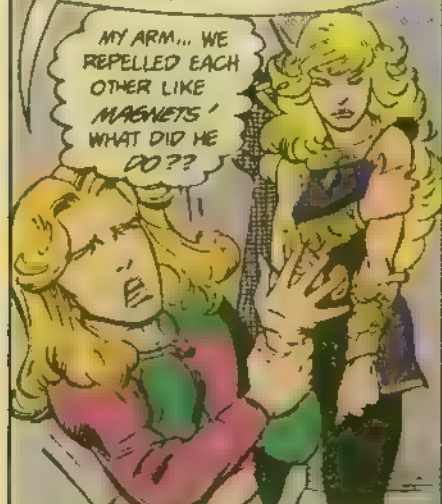


--MEEEEE!!

--UPAAAGHHHH!!



MY HAND! MY HAND! FLAW, SHE TOUCHED ME! FLAW, IT'S BURNING, IT HURTS!  
FLAW, MAKE IT BETTER!



BACK OFF, NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! LEAVE THE GEMWORLD! GO BACK TO YOUR SPLIT-RANCH AND YOUR DOG AND YOUR BOYFRIENDS AND YOUR STUPID EIGHTH-GRADE TESTS!



I'M NOT IN EIGHTH GRADE HERE

HE'S AFRAID OF ME! SCARED TO DEATH! BUT, WHY?



I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU! YOU'RE NOTHING! YOU'RE A CHILD! I'LL SHOW YOU! FLAW, GET HER! KILL HER! KILL HER, FLAW!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID? CAN'T FIGHT YOUR OWN BATTLES? YOU WOULDN'T LAST TWO SECONDS BACK IN THE SCHOOLYARD



I MAY BE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD ON EARTH BUT HERE I'M AN ADULT AND I DON'T PLAY WITH CHILD--

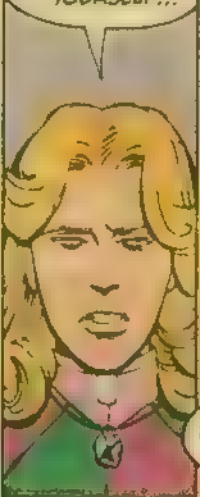


ADIEEEEEEE!!!  
MY HEAD!  
LET  
GOOOOOO!!



IT'S NOT ME, SISTER

Y'KNOW, I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOURSELF...



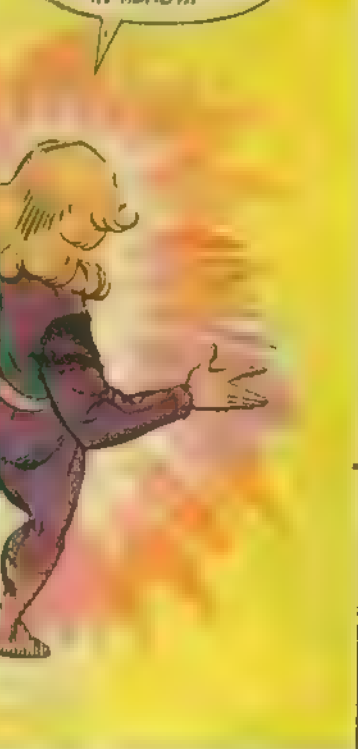
"...AND SO YOU'LL DIE"



YOU'RE SO SMART YOU FIGURE IT OUT.

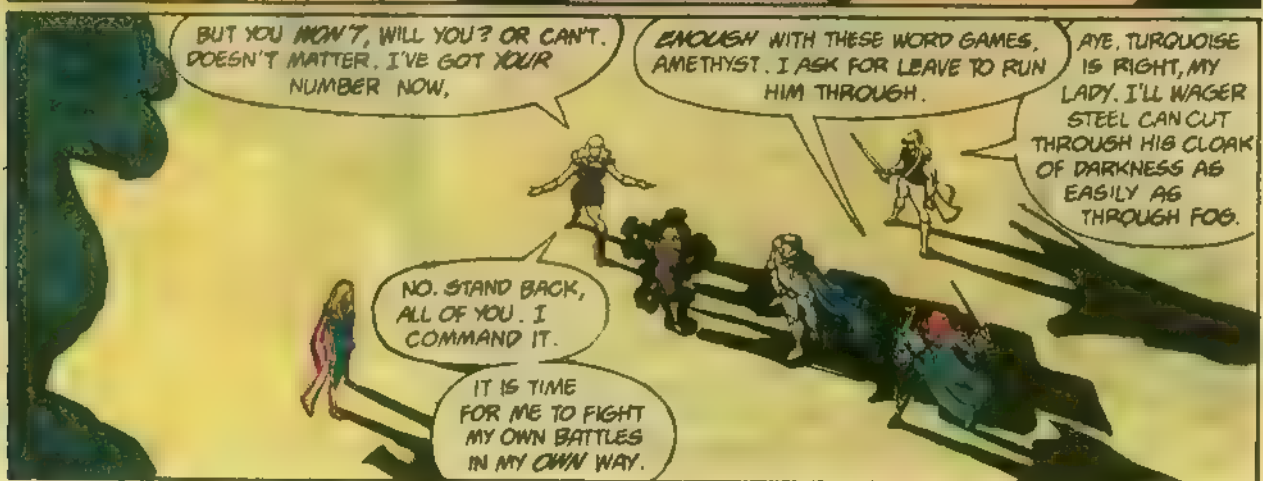
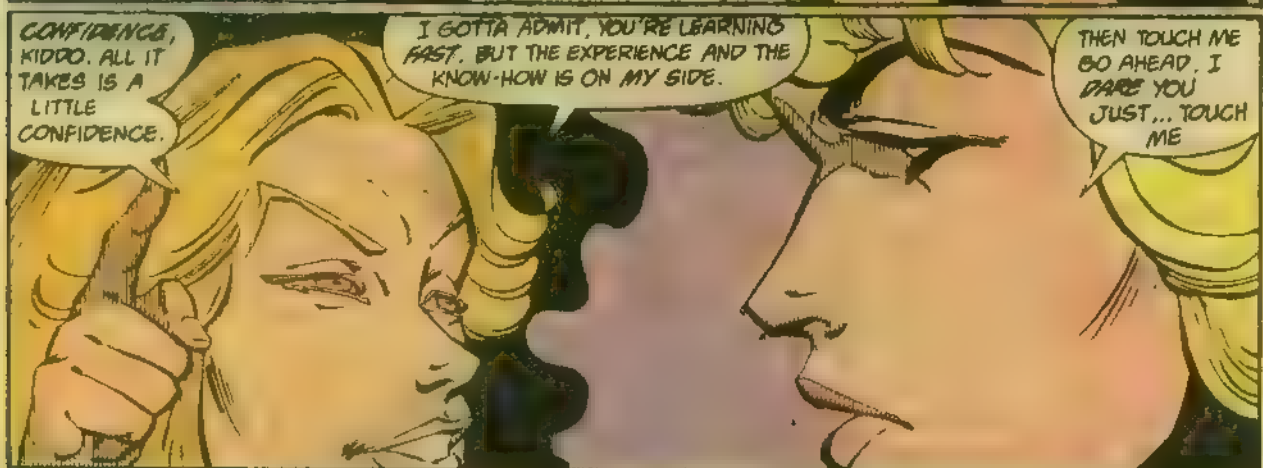
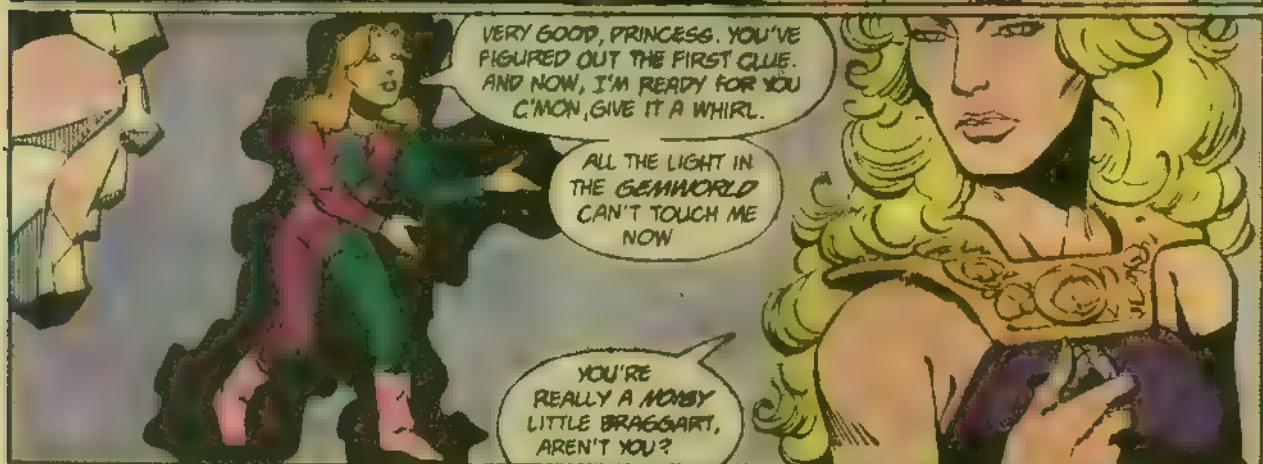
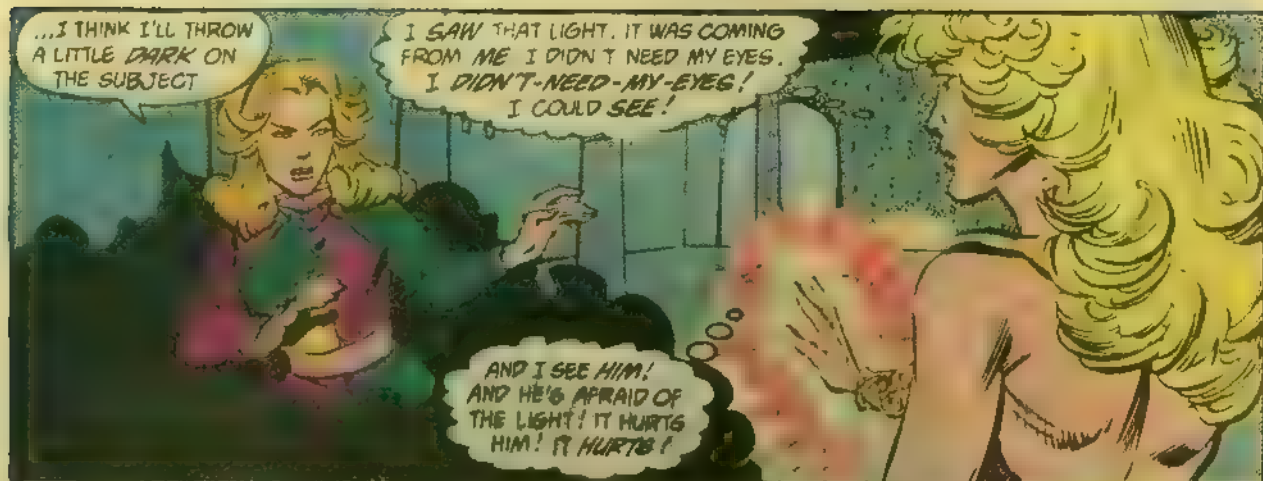


AS FOR ME, IT'S GETTING TOO BRIGHT IN HERE...



WHAT'S HAPPENINGGGG???  
SO MUCH LIGHT!!









YOU DO NOT COMMAND  
FLAW, AMETHYST!  
AND I CHOOSE WAR WITH THE  
RED-HAIRED WOMAN OF STEEL!



ALL WE HAVE  
DONE IS NOTHING  
BUT GAWK AND  
STARE ' WE  
ARE NOBLEMEN '  
WE ARE  
WARRIORS '

AND I CHOOSE  
COMBAT AS WELL,  
AMETHYST! IF  
THIS BE TREASON,  
THEN SO BE IT!



AND WE SHALL  
FIGHT!!

LET MY SWORD BREAK INTO A THOUSAND  
SHARDS! I WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ONE OF THEM  
PIERCES YOUR STONE HEART!

YOU WASTE  
WHAT LITTLE  
BREATH YOU  
HAVE LEFT,  
VIXEN!

CLASH!!

IT IS MINE  
TO WASTE, BRUTE!!



FACE ME NOW, FLAW --SON  
OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF  
MOONSTONE!  
MY FATHER TRAINED ME  
IN THE WAYS OF LIFE AND  
DEATH  
SINCE  
BIRTH...

..AND I  
FEAR NEITHER!!!



THEN EMBRACE DEATH!!

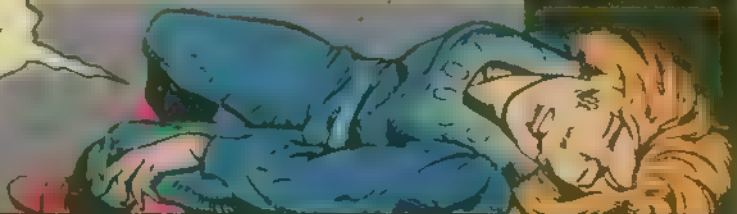
MOONSTONE!!

AAAGGHHH!



MOONSTONE??  
MOONSTONE!!

TWAS A GOOD  
FIGHT, MY LADY  
BUT...



BUT IT'S NOT OVER  
YET! HANG IN THERE,  
MOONSTONE!

AND AS FOR  
YOU, BRAT--!

LISTEN, ALL THOSE OTHERS  
GOT IN THE WAY NOW IT'S JUST US JUST  
THE WAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE

YOU CAME INTO  
MY HOME, UNWANTED,  
UNWELCOME, AND YOU  
DESTROYED IT NO  
ONE DOES THAT TO  
ME. NO ONE.

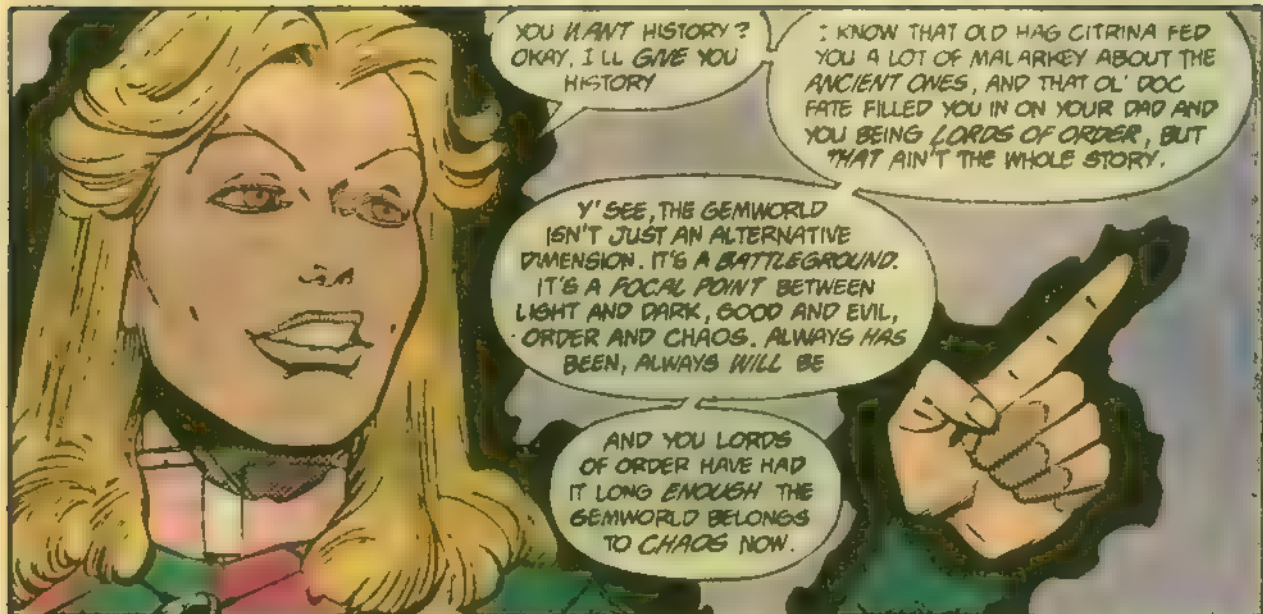
I DID

LIFE HAS NO  
MEANING TO YOU, DOES  
IT? THOSE PEOPLE  
ARE MY FRIENDS, MY  
RESPONSIBILITY.

OH,  
C'MON. PEOPLE  
ARE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THEMSELVES.  
THEY KNOW  
THAT.

I KNOW  
ONLY ONE THING.  
YOU'RE HISTORY.





YOU WANT HISTORY?  
OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU  
HISTORY

I KNOW THAT OLD HAG CITRINA FED  
YOU A LOT OF MALARKY ABOUT THE  
ANCIENT ONES, AND THAT OL' DOC  
FATE FILLED YOU IN ON YOUR DAD AND  
YOU BEING LORDS OF ORDER, BUT  
THAT AIN'T THE WHOLE STORY.

Y' SEE, THE GEMWORLD  
ISN'T JUST AN ALTERNATIVE  
DIMENSION. IT'S A BATTLEGROUND.  
IT'S A FOCAL POINT BETWEEN  
LIGHT AND DARK, GOOD AND EVIL,  
ORDER AND CHAOS. ALWAYS HAS  
BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE

AND YOU LORDS  
OF ORDER HAVE HAD  
IT LONG ENOUGH. THE  
GEMWORLD BELONGS  
TO CHAOS NOW.



YOU MUST BE CRAZY IF YOU  
THINK I'M JUST GOING TO WALK  
AWAY AND LET YOU WIN!

I AM A LORD OF  
ORDER, AND I SAY  
NO TO CHAOS!



YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE  
PRINCESS, BUT I GUESS YOU  
NEED SOME CONVINCING

YOU'RE WEAK, AMETHYST,  
LIKE YOUR FATHER

HUH? WHA--??



...AND IT'S NOT GONNA TAKE MUCH TO  
ERASE YOU FROM THE PICTURE.

TOO BAD, THOUGH.  
I COULD HAVE USED  
A GOOD WORKOUT



GEE NOT EVEN MUCH  
OF A STRUGGLE  
SHE'S NO FUN

PRINCESS, CAN  
YOU STILL HEAR ME?  
NO USE STRUGGLING  
THE TENDRILS ONLY  
GET TIGHTER IF  
YOU DO.

JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES  
IN THERE AND GO TO SLEEP.  
IT'LL BE EASIER THAT WAY,  
AND FASTER.

BUT JUST SO YOU WON'T  
WORRY TOO MUCH, I'LL  
LET YOU IN ON A SECRET.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE  
WON, KIDDO ORDER MUST  
ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO  
CHAOS. IT'S THE WAY  
OF THINGS.

JUST BASIC  
PHYSICAL  
LAW, KIDDO

OH, YEAH?  
WELL, OUT OF  
CHAOS COMES  
ORDER,  
KIDDO!

I--  
I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT!!

SEEING IS  
BELIEVING, BROTHER.  
OR DIDN'T ANYBODY  
EVER TELL YOU  
THAT?

KR-AACCKKK!!











# GUEST

# MEANWHILE

by Mark Evanier

This is directed at those of you who aspire to write or draw comics. Which, lately, seems like just about Everyone.

A friend who talkee such minutiae tells me I just wrote my thousandth comic book script. This means, among other things, that I really ought to go find a second plot. And one of the other things it means is that, for a new kid in the business (a measly fifteen years), I've written and/or edited a lot of comics.

In those fifteen years, I've seen an endless stream of books and articles on How to Write and Draw Comics. And the reason I'm poaching here on Dick Giordano's page is that I wanted to say the following:

Those books and articles are wrong. All the ones I've seen, anyway. They're wrong because there are dozens and dozens of ways to write and draw comic books. Really. They're wrong just like a cookbook would be wrong if it taught you one way to prepare chicken and implied that there were no others. Folks who do comic books keep teaching you the way they do it, which may not be the right way for you to do it. Sometimes, it isn't even the right way for them to do it, but it's the only way they ever learned. You'd be amazed how some folks in the funnybook trade—fine, nice people—don't know anything about comics except what is immediately relevant to the job in which they find themselves.

Let's take the art of writing comics. You've probably heard about the "Marvel method" of scripting: The writer, sometimes in tandem with the penciller, works out a plot outline.

Then the penciller pencils the story out. Then the writer writes the captions and dialogue. There are some folks in this field who will tell you that this is the only good way to write a comic ... and these people are wrong. It may be the best way for them to work on certain strips with certain collaborators ... but it is by no means the best way for everyone. Some very fine comic book artists can't work this way ... or they can but they do much better work, some other method. They prefer to have a "full script" (i.e., a typed description of all characters, what they're doing in each panel and what they're saying).

And there are other methods. Sometimes, the writer draws out panel shapes on his typing paper and then types detailed descriptions and dialogue into those boxes. I wrote Bugs Bunny that way for years while other writers for the same company (including a gent named Carl Barks) were rough-sketching their stories out; then, the penciller redrew their roughs. So there's two more methods of scripting comics ... and those aren't uncommon methods, either. There are others. I write three different comics with three different artists ... and I have a totally different operating procedure for each. You adapt to the needs of your collaborator and to the requirements of the assignment at hand.

Same thing with artists. Aspiring illustrators are always asking artists what kind of pencils or pens they use. This is, basically, pointless. The pen Joe Kubert uses will do totally different things in your hand. If you want to be an artist, save up some cash, go to a

good Art Supply Shop, and buy one of everything. Experiment until you find tools with which you are comfortable.

And then, experiment in how you use those tools. Some comic artists, in planning out a page, do roughs the size of their originals. Some do roughs the size of a printed page. Some work even smaller. Some don't do any roughs, they plan their compositions on the page in light blue pencil or light regular pencil. Some—and don't ask me how—sit down and start drawing with no preliminary work and it comes out fine. Some artists who ink their own work do best when they do tight penciling first with every line just so; others lightly sketch shapes in and then do most of the drawing in ink. Some use thick brushes, some use thin brushes, some use pen. I've known artists to experiment for months with different brands of ink. You have to find what's right for you.

If I had more room, I'd talk about how you, as a beginning writer or artist, have to be true to yourself. Let's say you're a budding artist named Joe Shmidlapp. Your goal ought to be to become a first-rate Joe Shmidlapp, not a second-string imitation of, say, George Pérez. This may be difficult because there are editors who want a George Pérez so badly, they'd much rather you be him than you. The greets in this field have always been individual stylists, true to their own ideas: Jack Kirby, Carl Barks, Alex Toth, Wally Wood, Harvey Kurtzman, Neal Adams, Bill Everett, Joe Kubert, et al. All were inspired by others at first, but eventually they started drawing like themselves and crafted distinctive styles and viewpoints. Maybe you don't have that now ... maybe you never will. But what a shame it would be if you didn't try.

In the meantime, as you try to learn about comics, you'll encounter all manner of philosophers and tutors, some of whom may try to teach you the one way that is the only way they know. Do us all a favor and mentally insert a lot of "sometimes" into everything they tell you, starting with everything. I've told you here. No one has all the answers, and the sooner you realize that, the closer you'll be to having all the answers.

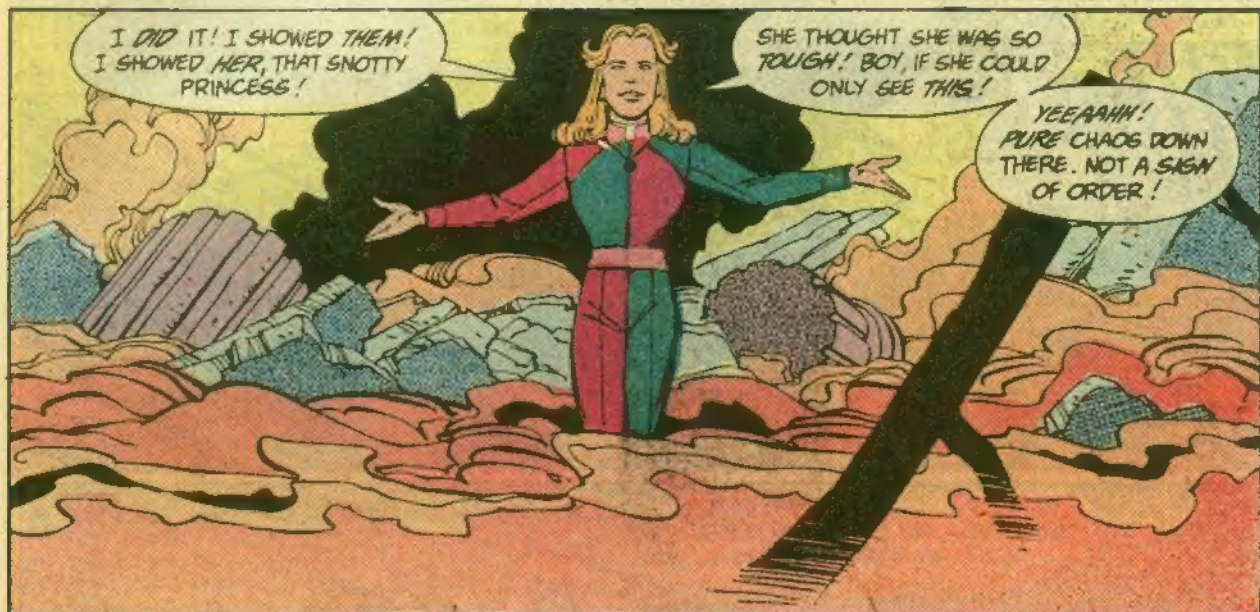


**D.C.**  
ON SALE THE  
**CHECK**  
WEEK OF MARCH 13  
**LIST**

- ☐ **Batman 396:** The climax to the Film Freak saga!
- ☐ **Superman 420:** A high school student invades Superman's dreams!
- ☐ **Star Trek® 27:** A quiet day aboard the *Excelsior* turns out strangely!
- ☐ **Secret Origins 3:** With one magic word—*Shazam!*—it's Captain Marvel!
- ☐ **Amethyst 15:** Castle Amethyst is destroyed and a royal leader dies!
- ☐ **Mazing Man 6:** It's a perfect day for

- baseball at Shea—and a mugging in the men's room!
- ☐ **Blue Beetle 1:** All-new, all-exciting adventures by Len Wein and Paris Cullins!
- ☐ **Elvira's House of Mystery™ 4:** Elvira's hunt for Cain continues!
- ☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 23:** It's back to the Phantom Zone for Mon-El!
- ☐ **Electric Warrior 2:** One of the Electric Warriors rebels!





I DID IT! I SHOWED THEM!  
I SHOWED HER, THAT SNOTTY  
PRINCESS!

SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS SO  
TOUGH! BOY, IF SHE COULD  
ONLY SEE THIS!

YEEAAHH!  
PURE CHAOS DOWN  
THERE. NOT A SIGN  
OF ORDER!



THAT'S  
ME, ALL  
RIGHT.  
PURE  
CHAOS.

WHERE'S  
FLAW?



HEY, FLAW!  
C'MON, BUDDY,  
LET'S GO!



SO SOON? WHAT  
IF THERE ARE  
SURVIVORS?



WE'LL TAKE CARE OF  
THEM, I PROMISE.

BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M  
TIRED AND THIRSTY AND  
HUNGRY AND I WANT  
TO GO HOME.

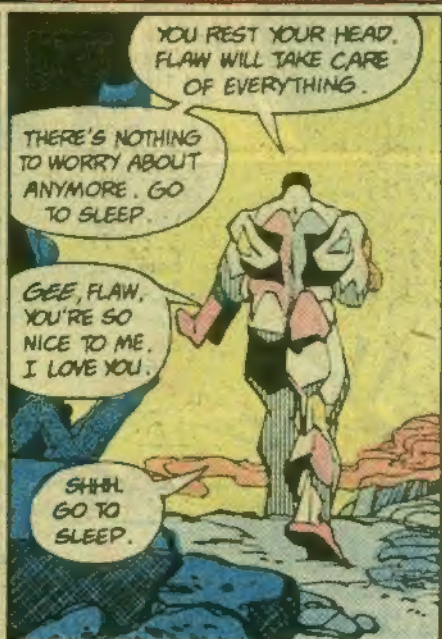


CAN WE GO HOME NOW?  
HUH? PLEASE?  
PLEASE?



YES, LITTLE ONE.  
WE CAN GO  
HOME NOW.

I'LL TAKE  
YOU THERE.



YOU REST YOUR HEAD.  
FLAW WILL TAKE CARE  
OF EVERYTHING.

THERE'S NOTHING  
TO WORRY ABOUT  
ANYMORE. GO  
TO SLEEP.

GEE, FLAW,  
YOU'RE SO  
NICE TO ME.  
I LOVE YOU.

SHHH  
GO TO  
SLEEP.



MUCH, MUCH LATER:



ALIVE... I'M STILL ALIVE... THE ONLY  
ONE ALIVE... AND EVERYTHING ELSE  
GONE... MY HOME... MY PEOPLE...



ALL GONE...  
EVERYONE...  
TURQUOISE...  
GARNET...  
MOONSTONE...

...AMMEETHHYSSTTTT!!!!

...AMETHYST...  
CASTLE AMETHYST...  
ALL LOST...



...LOST...



TO BE  
CONTINUED!



# Purple Prose



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666 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10103

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L-2347

Dear Sir,

Was this the exquisite cover you mentioned several issues back? Wow-WE-E-E-E-E-E-El!!! The Purple Princess and the blue lady never looked better.

But Amethyst looked a whole lot better on the outside than she did once we got inside, where we got treated to another episode of "As the Gemworld Turns." Our heroine is feeling mighty unsettled and confused these days, to put it mildly. If Amethyst once said, "Amy seems almost like a different person sometimes ... like when I'm alone with Prince Topaz," then it seems that the reverse is also true. An Amethyst without Topaz seems to bring out the vengeance within the teenager, and the worst side of Amy Winston at that. A lot of your readers are accusing Topaz of being fickle, but look at it from his point of view for a minute. He lost his father and became an outcast in his own realm because he supported Amethyst, but the moment the danger of Dark Opal was removed, Amethyst left him. Yet it's not Topaz or Turquoise doing the reproaching here, instead they're acting quite deferential and trying to reason with Amethyst. Rather than being fickle, I think Topaz was over-late in grasping how matters really stood. Evidently he had to come face-to-face with Amy Winston last issue before he could make the admission he did the first panel of pg. 2. Can you argue with what he said? Even Amethyst couldn't, though it provoked a tantrum.

The falseness and irony of Amethyst's bitter recriminations are revealed in simply every place this issue. Our princess is about to find out what real deceit and treachery is--a good deal of it in the "real friends" on Earth that she referred to. The unfortunate part of Amy's emotional turmoil is that it is blinding her to her real dangers. Surely Amethyst is going to pay for her failure to follow up on investigating the Opal portal with some dark and dangerous days ahead.

It seems to me that Emmy's motive for staying on Earth (and Amy's motive for holding similar sentiments) was pretty weak. Oh, not plotwise. It's just that Amy and Emmy are unwittingly touching on a far deeper issue. "This world of magic and cruelty--of lies, deceit, and broken promises. This world of ruthless enemies and false friends" was meant to describe Gemworld. But is Earth really any different? American civilization hangs on as slender a thread as did the reign of Lord and Lady Amethyst, if

not more slender. Okay, even granting nuclear missiles might have difficulty getting past Superman's chest.

Speaking of Emerald ... I'd say Carla Ames did an excellent and thorough job in highlighting the qualities of character in the new Lady. But I suspect there are a fair share of families where the most dutiful child is the one taken most for granted--remember the elder brother of the "Prodigal Son"? I never meant to suggest middle Emerald be neurotic--only noticed less than her due, the type royal matchmakers would get around to as an afterthought after pursuing princesses with more dash and flash. Maybe the eldest daughter inheriting most of the power was mere speculation--but it is a fact that middle Emerald missed out on some special powers of her mother that Emmy did inherit. It is a fact that Lady Turquoise ranked Lady Emerald with Lady Amethyst and Dark Opal as one of the great nobles of old. It is a fact that even in her dotage Lady Emerald's rep was still such that Ariyan whispered to her that the throne was her proper place--and not her middle daughter's. But this is not to depreciate middle Emerald. Minstrels may spin lays about Amethyst's and Turquoise's beauty and the flash of their arms and magicks--but Emerald may be their better as a person and ruler, even if nobody writes songs about her keeping the nose to the grindstone. I think your readers could identify with a person like that.

Gary Thompson  
3701 Roosevelt  
Dearborn, MI 48124

*We have to agree with you that life on Earth is not without its numerous negative aspects. Gary, but compared to the warring, death, and general instability currently shaking the Gemworld, it's far more secure to be living on a peaceful, tree-lined street in Hudson, NY. Emmy's motive is particularly strong when you consider that she grew up under the cruel, constrained reign of Dark Opal, losing her mother and eldest sister to untimely demises. Amy's reasons to depart the Gemworld (though not personally harrowing as Emmy's) are just as soundly based. After all, a broken heart is never any fun.*

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Dear Purplish Ones,

I've always thought that Amethyst on Gemworld acted more grownup than Amy on Earth and wondered if the

physical transformation that takes place when she goes from one world to another also had mental aspects. However, with "Sacrifice" (#11) it becomes clearer that Amethyst is psychologically the same age as Amy, indeed, that Amethyst really is Amy in totality. (It was that final, 100% totality that I wondered about.) Certainly, there was something about Amethyst's actions in this issue that made her seem her Earth age. It wasn't really *what* she did (love can make fools of us all), but more *how* she did it. Maybe she seemed more mature as Amethyst previously because of the nature of the situation into which she was thrown. It was a desperate fix to be in and her goal was clear. Now that life on Gemworld is less hectic, it is also more confusing for her.

Sardonyx continues to be a most interesting villain. He can seem slimily repugnant at times but almost noble at others. His villainy seems to grow out of weakness, or perhaps out of a desire to go just one step beyond what is proper--not the total evil of Dark Opal. He may even have a strong streak of good in him, as he wonders (page 22) about the wisdom of trying to rule Gemworld. Or is it that he just fears the chaos that he expects will result from such an attempt? If his weakness caused him to ally himself with Dark Opal as his "protector," then it might also make him fear to compete in the brutal struggles that chaos entails.

T.M. Maple  
Box 1272, Station B  
Weston, ONT M9L2R9

*Sardonyx is definitely a complicated villain, as noted, T.M. Be sure to keep closely attuned to the Lord of Serpents' actions in future issues, for he will be playing an extremely important role in a critical, shattering event in Amethyst's life. Think I can be any more ambiguous?*

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Dear Karen,

After reading all of the AMETHYST comics up to #11 of the current series, I decided I sort of owed you a letter. Let me tell you first off that I think AMETHYST is a great comic, and as long as you publish it, I'll buy it. But I have some questions. Who is this Gina person (AMETHYST #10), and why is she so interested in Herb Winston? What does she know that we don't? And I know you've heard a lot of criticism about this, but if Prince Topaz loves both Lady Turquoise and Princess Amethyst,



Why is his first, last, and only concern for Turquoise? And how come he switched from Amethyst (to whom he was supposed to be eternally devoted) to Turquoise without a moment's notice? Pretty strange if you ask me (which you didn't, but anyways). Well, enough about that. On to other things. Why didn't Carl/Carnelian recognize Emmy/Emerald at school? And last, but not least, if Rita is White Opal's daughter, why is she wearing a Dark Opal?

Well, I've bugged you enough with my questions for one day. Just let me say (again) that AMETHYST is one right on comic!!!

Long reign the purple throne.

Darcy Sharman  
14016-21st  
Edmonton, Alta  
T5Y 1C5

Okay, Darcy, taking your questions in order.

Gina Tonelli is one of Herb Winston's students (he's a professor of English literature, remember?), and she's, how should we say, quite taken with Amy's dad there. (For Gina's current status, check out next issue's earthly events.) Prince Topaz, for whatever reasons, prefers Turquoise's love over Amethyst's. You have to remember that our princess had spent an extended period of time on Earth at the beginning of this monthly series, and in Amethyst's case, her absence didn't make Topaz's heart grow fonder. You also have to consider that Topaz didn't deal too well with his lover also being a cute, freckled thirteen-year-old. As for Carl, who said he didn't recognize Emmy at school? And lastly, we never said that Rita was White Opal's daughter. You probably confused an overzealous reader's speculative letter with the facts.

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Dear Amethyst Gang:

Congratulations! You have won my "Best Cover of the Month" award for AMETHYST #11 (Nov. 1985)! Romeo and Paris really did a great job. I can only describe the cover as BREATHTAKING. It was only by accident that I discovered the artists' names, cleverly hidden on a flowing banner (what modesty!). AMETHYST has had some really good covers, but this one takes the cake. The objects are highly detailed, the people and animals are realistic, and the color is beautiful! I felt as though I could step right into the picture. Whew!

I wanted to purchase an extra copy of AMETHYST #11 and tear the cover off for framing, but I could not bring myself to destroy a copy of such a good book. Has DC published a poster of this cover? If so, how can we purple fiends get one?

Congratulations are also given to the entire AMETHYST crew. I have been following AMETHYST from its beginning as a maxi-series, and you are all doing a fine job. If I may speak for every AMETHYST fan, then I would like to say THANK YOU for giving us this, as you call it, modern fairy tale. We appreciate

your efforts, and eagerly await the next issue!

Jon A. Eberhart  
515 Summit Avenue, Apt. 35  
Arlington, TX 76013

On behalf of Paris and Romeo, we'd like to say, "Gee, thanks, Jon. We're honored to have won your prestigious personal award." Unfortunately, no posters of issue #11 were printed, but if you're still in search of an extra copy, we're sure there are plenty of back issues floating around at your local comic shop.

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Dear Karen,

Thanks for printing my letter in your Purple Prose column—gee, I'm nationally famous! (Well, I still got a long way to go to equal "T.M. Maple's" fame.) But thanks again, and let's hope other AMETHYST readers would start talking to me about one of the most flexible comics (from the plotline point of view) in a long time!

One thing struck me about AMETHYST #11—the cover! What a masterpiece of art! Paris Cullins and Romeo Tanghal deserve a round of politely hysterical applause! In short, this is the best AMETHYST cover ever, with artwork even George Pérez and Wendy Pini would envy...

As for Amethyst's saying more or less "I quit Gemworld" on page 9 of #11, don't bet on it, as I say. As fellow reader Gary Thompson told me, a recent issue of *Amazing Heroes* said that our old friend Dark Opal will appear again in #12! Well, almost—if he does return, I don't think that will be him, for the particular reason that this being may be a manifestation of a particular being called the Anti-Monitor, who wants to more or less wipe out Gemworld on his way to total universal domination, as told in the superb maxi-series CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS. Remember, since Amethyst has made an appearance in that maxi-series, I'll bet there will be a CRISIS-crossover issue of AMETHYST very soon!

One thing I liked about #11 are the similarities of the "badness" of the Beckman kid and Lord Sardonyx's two children. They give a good dose of reality to the story (I mean just what parents have not been exasperated with their kids?), and made for good comic relief.

As for my idea of using secret "soul names" to differentiate the various members of the same royal house, please use it! Now that we have seen more of the House of Sardonyx (and we will see more of the other houses, too!), such a system will make for easier reading, to say the least.

Sincerely,  
Raymond Chuang  
2650 American River Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95864

Good theory on the workings of Dark Opal's return, Raymond, but as witnessed this issue, a quite unlikely looking villain and his sidekick were behind the Dark Lord's rather short-lived come-

back. And if you liked bratty children in the book before, just wait until you see what this new "bad boy" is capable of. Trust us, it's awesome!

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Dear Purple People,

Before I start my comments, questions, and suggestions on issue #11, I must say AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD is an exciting series. I love the magic and the characters. I also have never been disappointed...

I write this letter about #11 because, to me, it was the most "human" comic in a loooooong time. It was also my favorite! The new logo is a long overdue change and the cover is beautiful, although exaggerated. Amethyst is portrayed as a goddess of love and peace and Turquoise like an evil warrior. I admit she likes good fights but wasn't it she who, in the first annual, had "brightened the nobles' hearts with her radiance"? Unlike most of the readers, I prefer the relationship of Topaz and Turquoise and I can't wait to see their wedding, if there is any. (I'm curious, how many of the readers agreed for those two? 5-10%) Amethyst is great, but she's getting selfish. That's a definite no-no! She could have swallowed her pride, but no! She reacts like the thirteen-year-old kid she is! Aarrgh! I understand her pride was wounded, but come on! If she wants to have Topaz back (something I doubt), she has got to show her "older" personality. However, on page 21, first panel, Lord Sardonyx's face was priceless. It's something hard to put on paper, but this time ... wow! Way to go! The rest of the story was great and "human"!

Finally here are two interesting suggestions: How about a mini-series called "The Past of the Gemworld" which would show past adventures, the house of Amethyst taking over Ruby for leadership ... and a pin-up shot of the twelve nobles or major characters one each month?!

I thank you all for your time and  
Until Diamond lets his hair grow!!!

Sandra De Guire  
4050 Claude  
Verdun, Montreal  
Quebec, Canada  
H4G-1H3

A surprising number of readers sided with you, Sandra. We estimate about 60% for Topaz and Turquoise, and 40% for Topaz and Amethyst. And speaking of the happy couple, they'll be tying the proverbial knot in the not distant future. Don't worry, we'll give you plenty of notice!

NEXT: Amy retreats from a chaotic Gemworld and finds Earth not the way she left it! See you soon—Karen

